

2 an external port in communication with the first accessory slot, the external  
3 port having at least one external port contact.

1 18. The handheld computer of claim 17, wherein the accessory device is an  
2 input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the external  
3 port contacts when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the first accessory  
4 slot.

1 19. The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein the first and second  
2 accessory slots each include a retaining device for retaining accessory devices.

1 20. The handheld computer of claim 19, wherein the retaining device is a  
2 notch which mates with a detent on the accessory device.

1 21. A handheld computer, comprising:  
2 a housing having a midframe, the midframe forming part of an exterior of the  
3 housing, the midframe having a first and second accessory slots associated with a left  
4 and right sides of the midframe, respectively, the first and second accessory slots  
5 being elongate and capable of receiving and accommodating at least one removable  
6 accessory device;  
7 a front shell coupled to a front side of the midframe; and  
8 a back shell coupled to a back side of the midframe.

1 22. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the first and second  
2 accessory slots partially enclose the accessory device along substantially a length of  
3 the accessory device, and wherein a portion of the accessory device is exposed to an  
4 exterior of the handheld computer along substantially the length of the accessory  
5 device

1 23. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein a bottom of the housing  
2 is flared out and acts as a stop for accessory devices inserted into the accessory slots.

1           24.    The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the accessory slots are  
2           substantially cylindrical.

1           25.    The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the accessory device is a  
2           stylus device.

1           26.    The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the accessory device is a  
2           cover device.

1           27.    The handheld computer of claim 21, further comprising:  
2           an external port in communication with the first accessory slot, the external  
3           port having at least one external port contact.

1           28.    The handheld computer of claim 27, wherein the accessory device is an  
2           input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the external  
3           port contacts when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the first accessory  
4           slot.

1           29.    The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the first and second  
2           accessory slots each include a retaining device for retaining accessory devices.

1           30.    The handheld computer of claim 29, wherein the retaining device is a  
2           notch which mates with a detent on the accessory device.

1           31.    A method of manufacturing a handheld computer, comprising:  
2           providing a housing capable of substantially enclosing a plurality of  
3           components;  
4           forming a first elongate accessory slot on a left side of the housing; and  
5           forming a second elongate accessory slot on a right side of the housing,  
6           wherein the first and second accessory slots are capable of receiving and  
7           accommodating at least one removable accessory device.

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1           32.    The method of claim 31, wherein the first and second accessory slots  
2           partially enclose the accessory device along substantially an entire length of the  
3           accessory device, and wherein a portion of the accessory device is exposed to an  
4           exterior of the handheld computer along substantially the entire length of the  
5           accessory device.

1           33.    The method of claim 31, wherein a bottom of the housing is flared out  
2           and acts as a stop for accessory devices inserted into the accessory slots.

1           34.    The method of claim 31, wherein the accessory slots are substantially  
2           cylindrical.

1           35.    The method of claim 31, wherein the accessory device is a stylus  
2           device.

1           36.    The method of claim 31, wherein the accessory device is a cover  
2           device.

1           37.    The method of claim 31, further comprising:  
2           forming an external port in communication with the first accessory slot, the  
3           external port having at least one external port contact.

1           38.    The method of claim 37, wherein the accessory device is an  
2           input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the external  
3           port contacts when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the first accessory  
4           slot.

1           39.    The method of claim 31, wherein the first and second accessory slots  
2           each include a retaining device for retaining accessory devices.

1           40.    The method of claim 39, wherein the retaining device is a notch which  
2           mates with a detent on the accessory device.